

# NIGHTWISH RELOADED

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*THE PERIOD before 'Century Child' was one of intense reflection, resulting in changes that effectively secured the Nightwish future. In came new bassist Marco Hietala (a well-known face on the Finnish rock scene; a man with a powerful voice plus an aggressive playing style), and in came a new management set-up, designed to allow the musicians more creative freedom.*

*For the first time ever, the songs were linked by a single theme (the loss of innocence), which just served to make them all the more powerful – heavy from an emotional point of view, and heavy in terms of the music as well, the whole thing underpinned by the sort of theatricality more usually associated with movie soundtracks.*

*A Top 5 album in Germany and a chart-topper at home, as indeed was 'Ever Dream' (the lead-off single), 'Century Child' ensured that the next time Nightwish took to the road they would be playing to half a million people in over 20 different countries!*

*'Century Child' (2002): Nightwish successfully storm the global charts in full panoramic glory.*

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# Nightwish



# Century Child

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## *~ Century Child ~*

*"A musician's work is always a mirror of his personal life.*

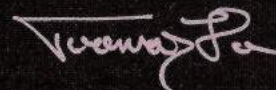
*Sometimes it's so revealing, it can be scary.*

*"By the time I got to writing 'Century Child', days of happiness were well and truly over, making it the darkest album in the band's history to date.*

*"It's also the only one of our records that follows some kind of a theme;*

*'Century Child' is a dumping ground for the emotions, a defence mechanism against the world, from the dead end of 'Slaying The Dreamer' through to the hopelessness of 'Ocean Soul', although 'Ever Dream' hints at the promise of light at the end of the tunnel.*

*"Losing faith and love is bearable,  
losing hope is the end of everything."*



**Tuomas Holopainen**





## *Bless The Child*

*"I was born amidst the purple waterfalls  
I was weak, yet not unblest  
Dead to the world  
Alive for the journey  
One night I dreamt  
A white rose withering,  
A newborn drowning  
A lifetime loneliness.  
I dreamt all my future  
Relived my past  
And witnessed the beauty of the beast"*

Where have all the feelings gone?  
Why has all the laughter ceased?

Why am I loved only when I'm gone?  
Gone back in time to bless the child

How can I ever feel again?  
Given the chance would I return?

Why am I loved...  
Think of me long enough to make a memory  
Come bless the child one more time

I've never felt so alone in my life  
As I drank from a cup which was counting my time  
There's a poison drop in this cup of Man  
To drink it is to follow the left hand path.

Why am I loved...

*"Where have all the feelings gone?  
Why is it the deadliest sin - to love as I loved you?  
Now unblest, homesick in time,  
Soon to be freed from care, from human pain  
My tale is of the most bitter truth:  
Time pays us but with earth & dust,  
And a dark, silent grave.  
Remember, my child:  
Without innocence the cross is only iron,  
Hope is only an illusion  
& Ocean Soul's nothing but a name...*

*The Child bless thee & keep thee forever"*

## *End Of All Hope*

It is the end of all hope  
To lose the child, the faith  
To end all the innocence  
To be someone like me  
This is the birth of all hope  
To have what I once had  
This life unforgiven  
It will end with birth

No will to wake for this morn  
To see another black rose born  
Deathbed is slowly covered with snow  
Angels, they fell first but I'm still here  
Alone as they are drawing near  
In heaven my masterpiece will finally be sung

It is the end of all hope...

Wounded is the deer that leaps highest  
And my wound it cuts so deep  
Turn off the light and let me pull the plug

It is the end of all hope...

Mandy lion without a face  
Deathwish without a prayer  
End of hope, end of love, end of time  
The rest is silence

It is the end of all hope...



Tarja Turunen: Vocals



## *Dead To The World*

All the same take me away  
We're dead to the world

The Child gave thought to the poet's words  
Gave comfort to the Fallen (Heartfelt, lovelorn)  
Remaining, yet still uninvited  
Those words scented my soul  
(Lonely soul, Ocean soul)

*"It's not the monsters under your bed  
It is the Man next door  
That makes you fear, makes you cry,  
Makes you cry for the child  
All the wars are fought among those lonely men  
Unarmed, unscarred"*

I don't want to die a scarless man  
A lonely soul (Tell me now what to do)  
I studied silence to learn the music  
I joined the sinful to regain innocence

Heaven queen, cover me  
In all that blue  
Little boy, such precious joy  
Is dead to the world  
Heaven queen, carry me  
Away from all pain  
All the same take me away  
We're dead to the world

Dead, silent, constant, yet always changing  
- My favourite view of this world

As he died, he will return to die in me again  
Weaving the cloth, giving birth to Century Child  
Who gave his life not for the world but for me  
Innocence reborn once more

Heaven Queen...

## *Ever Dream*

Ever felt away with me  
Just once that all I need  
Entwined in finding you one day  
Ever felt away without me  
My love, it lies so deep  
Ever dream of me

Would you do it with me  
Heal the scars and change the stars  
Would you do it for me  
Turn loose the heaven within  
I'd take you away  
Castaway on a lonely day  
Bosom for a teary cheek  
My song can but borrow your grace

Ever felt away...

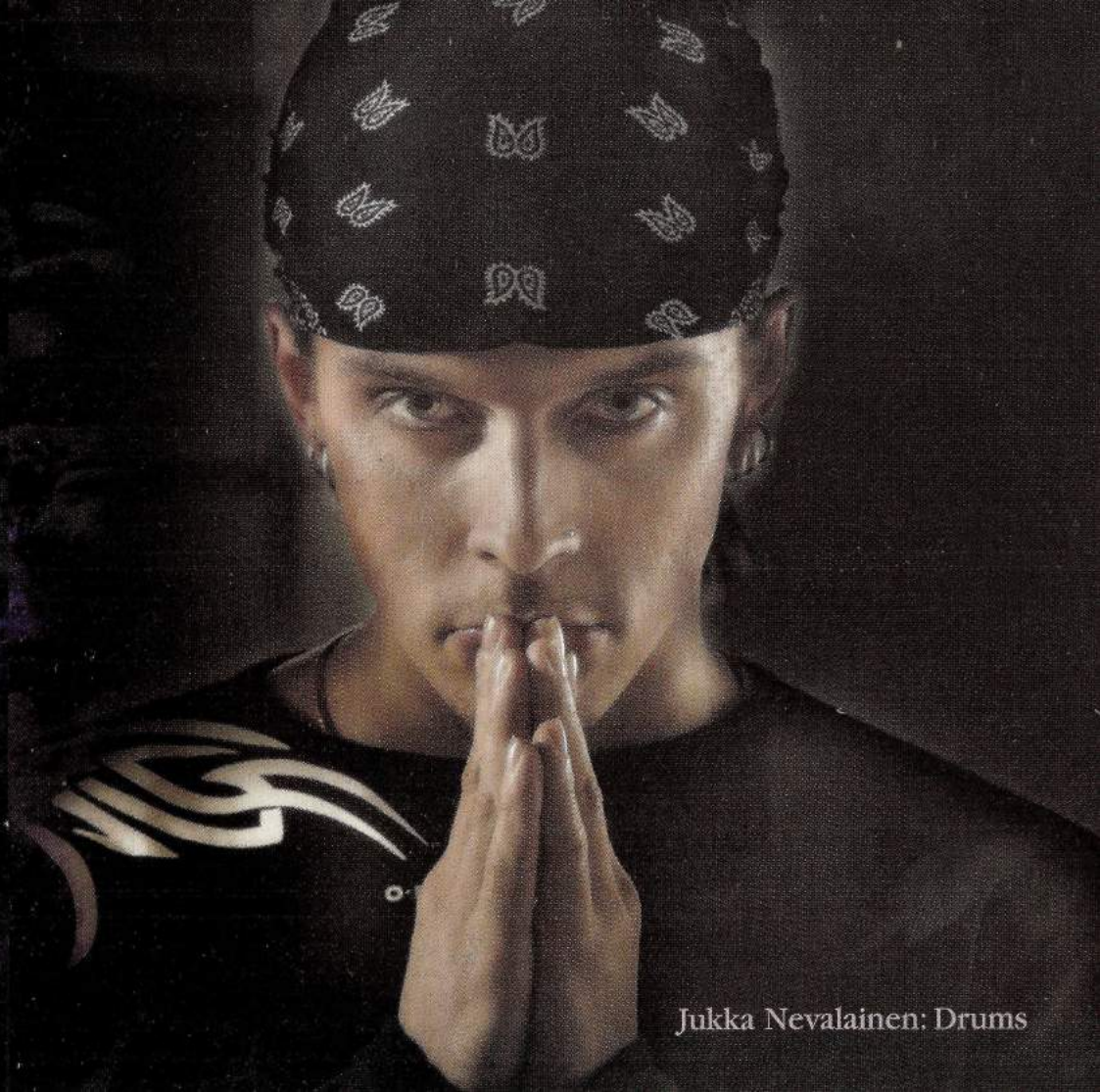
Come out, come out wherever you are  
So lost in your sea  
Give in, give in for my touch  
For my taste for my lust

Ever felt away...

Your beauty cascaded on me  
In this white night fantasy

Ever felt away...

*"All I ever craved were the two  
Dreams I shared with you  
One I now have, will the other  
Ever dream remain  
For yours I truly wish to be"*



Jukka Nevalainen: Drums





*Nightwish*



## *Playing The Dreamer*

I'm a priest for the poorest sacrifice  
I'm but a raft in a sea of sorrow and greed  
You bathed in my wine  
Drank from my cup, mocked my rhyme  
Your slit tongues licked my aching wounds

Put a stake through my heart!  
And drag me into sunlight  
So awake for your greed  
As you're playing the dreamer

Swansong for the Wish of Night  
God it hurts, give a name to the pain  
Our primrose path to hell is growing weed

Put a stake through my heart...

Blame me, it's me  
Coward, a good-for-nothing scapegoat  
Dumb kid, living a dream  
Romantic only on paper  
Tell me why you took all that was mine!  
Stay as you lay - don't lead me astray!

Wake up, mow the weed  
You'd be nothing without me  
Take my life if you have the heart to die

You bastards tainted my tool  
Raped my words, played me fool  
Gather your precious glitter  
And leave me be  
The Great Ones are all dead  
And I'm tired, too

*I truly hate you all!*



## *Forever Yours*

Fare thee well, little broken heart  
Downcast eyes lifetime loneliness  
Whatever walks in my heart will walk alone

Constant longing for the perfect soul  
Unwashed scenery forever gone  
Whatever walks in my heart will walk alone

No love left in me.  
No eyes to see the heaven beside me  
My time is yet to come so I'll be forever yours

## *Ocean Soul*

One more night to bear this nightmare  
What more do I have to say  
Crying for me was never worth a tear  
My lonely soul is only filled with fear

Long hours of loneliness  
Between me and the sea

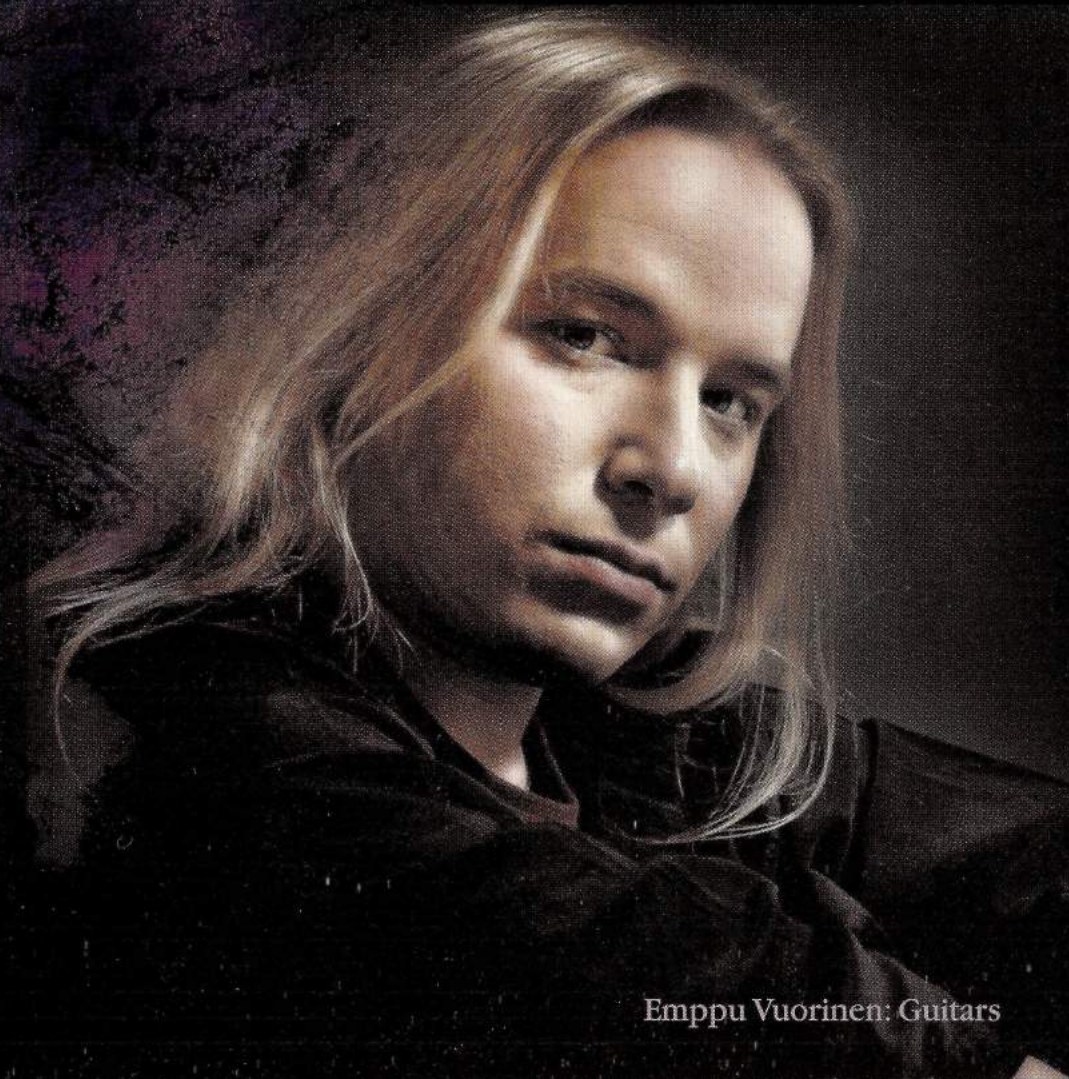
Losing emotion, Finding devotion  
Should I dress in white and search the sea  
As I always wished to be - One with the waves  
Ocean Soul

Walking the tideline I hear your name  
Is angels whispering  
Something so beautiful it hurts

Long hours...

I only wished to become something beautiful  
Through my music, through my silent  
devotion

Losing...



Emppu Vuorinen: Guitars



## *Feel For You*

You were my first love  
The earth moving under me  
Bedroom scent, beauty ardent,  
distant shiver, heaven sent  
I'm the snow on your lips,  
The freezing taste, the silvery sip  
I'm the breath on your hair,  
The endless nightmare,  
Devil's lair

Only so many times I can say  
I long for you  
The lily among the thorns,  
The prey among the wolves

Someday, I will feed a snake,  
Drink her venom.  
Stay awake  
With time all pain will fade,  
Through your memory I will wade

Barely cold in her grave  
Barely warm in my bed  
Settling for a draw tonight  
Puppet girl, your strings are mine

This one is for you for you  
Only for you  
Just give in to it never think again  
I feel for you



## *Beauty Of The Beast*

### LONG LOST LOVE

Trees have dropped their leaves  
Clouds their waters  
All this burden is killing me  
Distance is covering your way  
Tears your memory  
All this beauty is killing me

Oh, do you care, I still feel for you  
So aware, what should be lost is there

I fear I will never find anyone  
I know my greatest pain is yet to come  
Will we find each other in the dark  
My long lost love

Oh, do you care...

### ONE MORE NIGHT TO LIVE

Safely away from the world. In a dream. Timeless domain  
A child, dreamy-eyed, mother's mirror, father's pride

I wish I could come back to you. Once again feel the rain  
Falling inside me. Cleaning all that I've become

My home is far but the rest it lies so close  
With my long lost love under the black rose  
You told I had the eyes of a wolf  
Search them and find the beauty of the beast

All of my songs can only be composed of  
The greatest of pains  
Every single verse can only be born of  
The greatest of wishes  
I wish I had one more night to live

A saint blessed me, drank me deeply  
Spitting out the misery in me  
Still a sinner rapes 1000 saints  
Sharing the same hell with me  
Sanest choice in this insane world:  
Beware the beast but enjoy the feast he offers

### CHRISTABEL

*"Oh, sweet Christabel  
Share with me your poem  
For I know now  
I'm a puppet on this  
Silent stage show  
I'm but a poet who  
Failed his best play  
A Dead Boy,  
Who failed to write  
An ending  
To each of  
His poems"*

Marco Hietala: Bass & Vocals



# THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL...

IN JANUARY 2002, Nightwish entered the studio to start work on the 'Century Child' album (their fourth full-length outing since 1997), having just been through a period of change - both personal & professional - without which the very future of the band may have been called into question...

First of all, a new management set-up, King Foo Entertainment, had been brought on board to allow Tuomas to focus more fully on the creative side, and then - after a great deal of thought - the difficult decision was taken to ask Sami Vänskä, a longstanding friend, to leave the ranks. If truth be told, this request didn't come as a complete surprise to Sami, who had sensed that something of this nature might be brewing, but it was still an uneasy time for all concerned. On a brighter note, his replacement - Marco Hietala - had an impact on the group that was positive right from the start...

A well-known (bearded) face on the Finnish heavy metal scene, having been involved with a number of different projects including both Sinergy & Tarot, Marco was already well acquainted with Nightwish and their music, as Sinergy had guested with Tuomas & Co. on a full European tour. He was more experienced than the other Nightwish personnel, had a powerful singing voice and a way of playing bass that added an extra degree of aggression to the songs, all of which proved highly valuable in terms of capturing the new material then bringing it to life out on the road.

There was no doubt about it - the Nightwish that set about recording 'Century Child' was something of a rejuvenated outfit. However, despite the solidarity that now existed within the camp, Tuomas' outlook was proving anything but sunny, and as always his feelings & emotions were there for all to see; 'End Of All Hope', 'Dead To The World', 'Slaying The Dreamer', the song titles said it all, as indeed did the music itself - heavier than before, with the guitars and the bass

riding high in the mix, and the knob marked 'drama' cranked to the max.

Tuomas' love of movie themes was now shining through in style, with each number conceived as a mini-soundtrack in its own right, and a choir and an orchestra on hand to turn up the grandeur when required. This was Nightwish in full panoramic glory, with Tarja deciding to keep her classical influences on a generally tighter leash as a way of giving maximum weight & emotion to the album's recurring themes: childhood & innocence - or *loss* of innocence, to be more exact.

Given the darkness of his mood, it was no surprise that Tuomas should view the new material through cautious eyes, but as far as the press and the public were concerned, this particular 'Child' was something of a prodigy; within two days, lead single 'Ever Dream' had reached gold status in Finland, going straight to the top of the charts, and there was even greater success in store, with the album itself also topping its domestic chart, also turning gold in two hours... then hitting **platinum** in 10 days!

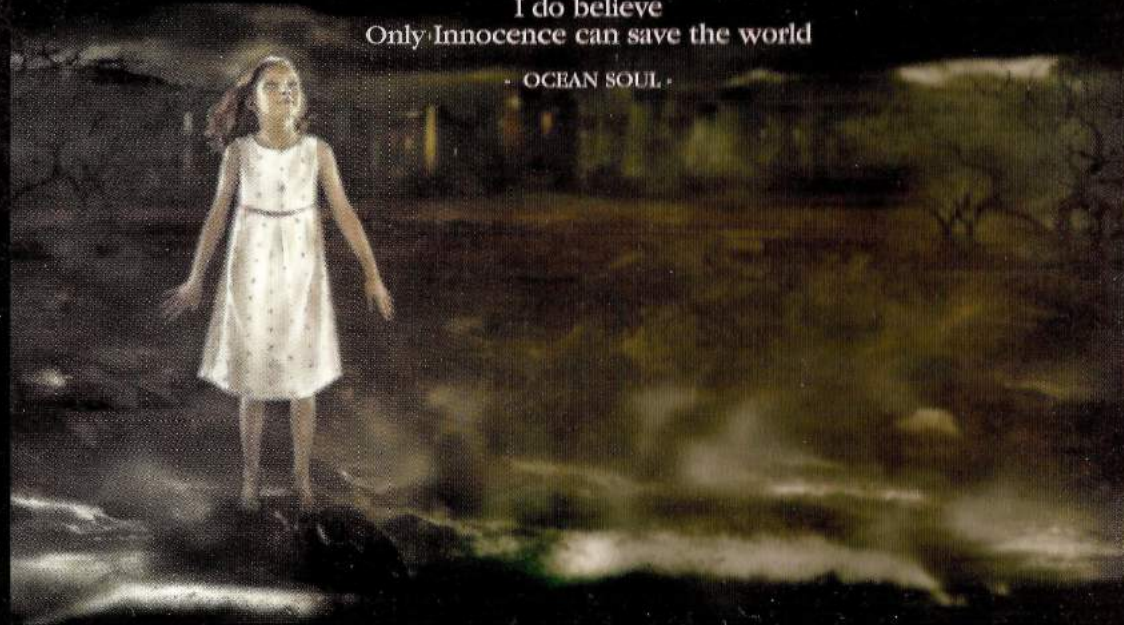
Overseas, too, the response was above & beyond the band's expectations; they could never have anticipated 'Century Child' going Top 5 in Germany, but that's precisely what happened, with influential title *Rock Hard* declaring it 'Album Of The Month'. Over in Brazil, meanwhile, the record was a sell-out by the end of day one, and so it went on... Nightwish had well and truly arrived on the world stage, and when they took to the road this time around, playing shows in over 20 different countries, there would be almost half a million people turning out to see them.

**The dream was very much alive.**

*Dante Bonutto*  
*Spinefarm Records UK*

The only true love I ever knew  
was behind those downcast eyes,  
The only comfort I ever felt  
was during those long hours of loneliness  
when I felt for you  
I do believe  
Only Innocence can save the world

• OCEAN SOUL •



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